Sous les chenes

Arndt

by Ray L. Bellande

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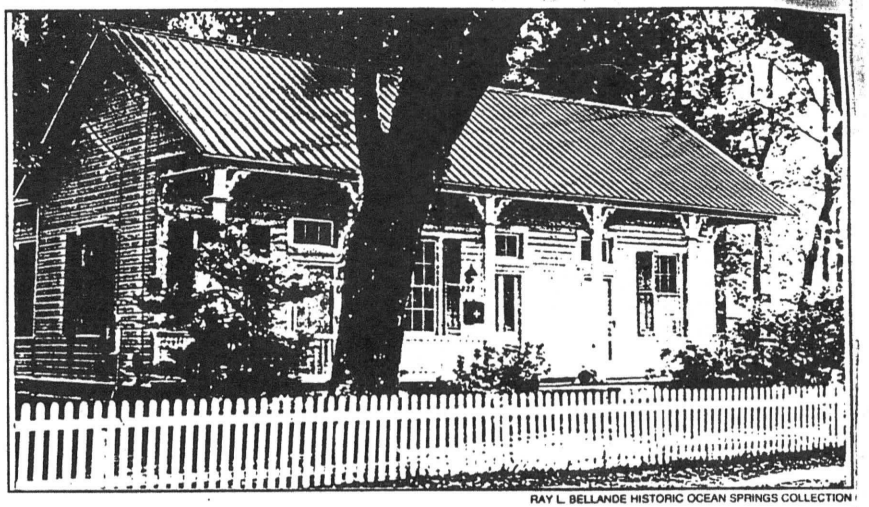
GENEALOGY COLLECTIO

The Arndt Cottage: 1895-1996



RAY L. BELLANDE HISTORIC OCEAN SPRINGS COLLECTION

The Arndt Cottage
This five-bay, side-gabled roof, wood frame cottage was built circa 1895 by George E. Arndt (1857-1945) on Porter Avenue just west of Jackson. It was near the Artesian House, a small hotel, built circa 1893 by Alfred E. Lewis (1862-1933). At this time, Ocean Springs was a very popular tourist resort and rentals were in demand. The Arndt Cottage served this purpose for nearly 100 years.

The Arndt Cottage, located at 822 Porter in the Old Ocean Springs Historic District, was built circa 1895, by George Edward Arndt (1857-1945). The house is a one story, wood frame cottage with a side gable roof. It has a five bay, full width, undercut gallery supported by six chamfered post flanked by sawn brackets. The facade is asymmetrical with three transomed entrances.

George E. Arndt was born at Rodney on Oct. 1, 1857. His parents were George E. Arndt (1827- 1882) and Caroline Russi (1835-pre 1880). They were born at Alsace-Lorraine, France, and Heidelberg, Germany respectively. Their other children were: Mary Arndt O'Brien (b. 1854), Magalene Arndt Engbarth (1856-1938), Michael Arndt (b. 1860), Henry Arndt (b. 1863), Emma Arndt Meyer (1864-1938+), and Bettie Arndt (b. 1865).

George E. Arndt arrived at Ocean Springs in May 1881, to be near his sister, Magalene A. Engbarth. Her husband, Emile Engbarth (1855-circa 1905), was the postmaster at Ocean Springs from 1885 to 1889.

Emma A. Meyer, a younger sister of George E. Arndt, also lived at Ocean Springs having arrived here from Rodney before 1892. She bought the VanCleave Hotel in December 1891, from Robert A. VanCleave (1840-1908) for $3,300.

Mrs. Meyer renamed it the Meyer Hotel. The hostelry was located on the southeast corner of Washington Avenue and Robinson opposite the L&N Depot. Her husband, Peter Meyer (1834- 1899), died at the hotel in November 1899. Mrs. Meyer was widowed with four children. She sold the hotel to Dr. O.L. Bailey (1870-1938) in November 1905, and probably moved to New Orleans.

Upon his arrival at Ocean Springs, George E. Arndt went into business and later opened the Paragon Saloon on the southwest corner of Washington and Robinson directly across the street from the Meyer Hotel. The building was originally leased from the Cochran family. Arndt acquired the saloon lot from Commissioner F.H. Lewis for $1,250 in March 1897.

In 1892, the town of Ocean Springs imposed a high price for a liquor license, and the two competitors of Arndt's Paragon Saloon closed their doors leaving it the only barroom in town. The Paragon, under Arndt's proprietorship, had a strict policy of not selling libations to those who would abuse it. The business prospered even with this restriction. Circa 1895, Charles Lawrence Dyer in *Along The Gulf* wrote:

"It is safe to say that the Paragon Saloon is one of the best conducted enterprises of its kind on the entire coast serving only the finest brands of liquors, cordials, etc. Consequently he enjoys the patronage of the better class."

As his fortune grew, George E. Arndt began investing in real estate. He acquired a parcel of land north of Ocean Springs where satsuma, orange and pecan orchards were developed. Arndt also served the people of Ocean Springs as Alderman-at-large from 1895 to 1902 and Alderman of Ward 4 from 1931-1932.

In October 1894, G.E. Arndt purchased for $600 a lot on Porter Avenue from the Alfred E. Lewis (1862-1933). The tract was described as:

A portion of Lot 8 in Block 31 beginning at the NW corner of said Lot No. 8 running east along Porter Avenue 81 feet; then south 50 feet; then west 81 feet; then north 50 feet to the place of beginning. Bounded on north by Porter, on west by O'Keefe, on south by Margaret Eylewert, and on east by land of herein grantor.

A.E. Lewis, called Fred, was the son of Colonel Alfred Edwin Lewis (1812-1885), the planter and politician who built Lewis Sha (now called Oldfields) at Gautier in 1845. The elder Lewis once owned over a 100,000 acres extending from Gautier to Point Aux Chenes. Fred Lewis was also the brother of Frank H. Lewis (1865-1930), the "Pecan Man" of Pascagoula, who was one of the greatest entrepreneurs and citizens Jackson county has ever known.

From 1890-1895, Fred Lewis and his wife, Julia Johnson (1861-1933), lived at "Mendenhall," in the Lovers Lane area. Their home on Biloxi Bay was located on Lot 10 in Section 24, and Section 25 of T7S-R9W.

At Ocean Springs, Lewis was engaged in the artesian water well business supplying the town of Ocean Springs with water until about 1897, when he sold the business to J.J. Kuhn (1848-1925). He became known as the "Artesian Prince" for his livelihood.

Circa 1893, Lewis had built the Artesian House which was located just east of the Arndt Cottage. It was a small hotel on the southwest corner of Jackson Avenue and Porter. The Lewis Family later resided southwest of Vancleave, and may have owned a store at Washington and Government at one time. Their daughter, Marguerite Lewis (1890-1961), was married to Frank J. Raymond (1883-1952), the owner of the Pines Hotel on Washington Avenue from 1925 to 1929.

George Arndt saw Adele Mary Robarts (1875-1945) of Columbus, Ga., while waiting for a train at Biloxi. He became interested in her and inquired of the station agent about her. The agent recognized the people with Miss Robarts as the James B. Lemon family of Biloxi. He then introduced Arndt to the Lemons and their guest.

James B. Lemon (1862-1919), the son of English immigrant, Dr. J.J. Lemon (1825-1915), was the proprietor of a drugstore at the corner of Lameuse and Howard. His wife was the sister of Miss Adele Robarts. In March 1918, Lemon opened a drugstore at Ocean Springs in the Farmers and Merchants State Bank Building. Matt Huber took over the business after Lemon's demise in 1919.

After a long distance courtship George Arndt and Adele Robarts married in 1899. They moved into Arndt's newly built home on Jackson Avenue (present day 523 Jackson). Arndt purchased the lot for his new home from Artemise Marie on April 16, 1890. From this marriage three children were born: Elise Arndt (1901-1903), Marie Arndt Alexander (1905-1994), and George E. Arndt Jr. (1909-1994). (TO BE CONTINUED)

PASCAGOULA LIBRARY
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

Sous les chenes

by Ray L. Bellande

Arndt 2

The Arndt Cottage: 1895-1996 (Part II)

Arndt opened a real estate office and also sold insurance. He owned a number of dwellings which he rented.

Among them, was the Arndt Cottage on West Porter. Amazing as it may seem, this house had remained in the Arndt Family for about 95 years until it was sold in May 1990 to Ray L. Bellande.

An example of an early rental was mentioned briefly in the *Pascagoula Democrat-Star* on December 4, 1896:

The Arndt Cottage on Porter Avenue is being prepared for Mr. Robert J. McIlrah and Family of Harrisburg, Illinois who are expected here on the 15th (p. 3, c. 4).

George E. Arndt Jr. believed that Jefferson Davis Holloway (1861-1938), the renown L&N railroad engineer, lived in the Arndt Cottage for awhile probably in 1898. Holloway first settled at the Wing Cottage on Washington Avenue in February 1898, with his mother and sister. After Jeff Holloway married Mary Elizabeth Reynolds (b. 1871) circa 1898, they may have moved to 822 Porter. In October 1908, Holloway bought Lots 8, 9, and 10 of Block 5 (culmseig Map) from Mrs. Hannah Johnson. Mr. Johnson was a conductor for the L&N Railroad. Here at present day 306 Washington Avenue, the Holloways may have built the Queen Anne cottage which they resided in for decades.

In October 1902, Mrs. Wilhelmina Turk and her daughter, Bertha, occupied the Arndt Cottage for six months. In June 1903, newlyweds Virginia Ryan (1884-1931) and David J. "Jack" Richard began their lives in the Arndt Cottage. Virginia was the daughter of Beauregard Ryan (1861-1928) and Virginia Vallen (1858-1928). The young couple were married at the home of her parents which was on present day Catchot Place only two blocks away.

The Richards' stay at 822 Porter was of short duration as Mrs. Olive Keith and her two small sons had moved into the Arndt Cottage by September 1903. She taught school at the Ocean Springs High School. In 1910, the Richards were living at Biloxi. At this time they had four children: Ethel (b. 1904), Estelle (b. 1906), Esther (b. 1908), and Etta (b. 1910).

Others to rent the Arndt Cottage were Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Smith of New Orleans in July 1906, and the James G. Spencers of Wheaton, Ill., in November 1906.

The *Ocean Springs News* of Dec. 13, 1916, reported that Grace L. Mosier, a licensed optician, operated an optical parlor at the Arndt Cottage. Office hours were 9 to 12 a.m.

The *Jackson County Times* of July 10, 1926, announced that Orion S. Baker (1898-1951) moved his family from the Watkins residence to the Arndt cottage where they will reside. Baker had a coffee business and grocery on Washington Avenue. The Watkins residence is located at present day 1101 Iberville. William W. Watkins (1850-1919), a farmer, and his wife, Jessie Watkins (1860-1928+), were from Bristol, Wis. The widow Watkins sold her home to Hattie Weeks Darsey (1858-1939) in June 1926. In July 1926, Mrs. Darsey conveyed the Watkins house to her nieces, Jessie M. Boyd (1881-1963) and Ethel W. Rice (1887-1969) which necessitated the Bakers' relocation to Porter Avenue.

After he sold the Pines Hotel at No. 25 Washington Avenue in 1920, Ernest A. Morris (1860-1946) moved with his family to the Arndt Cottage. Morris was born in England. He settled at Chicago and made his livelihood in the candy manufacturing business. The Morris Family came to Ocean Springs circa 1910. His daughter, Myrtle Morris (1893-1970), married Karl C. Maxwell (1893-1958), the step-son of Albert C. Gottsche (1873-1949) and Cynthia Davis (1869- 1951). The Gottshes operated a grocery store on Washington Avenue and Desoto. Morris and his son, Robert (1902- 1970), worked at the Gottsche Store. George Arndt relates that after the Morrises moved out of the Porter Avenue cottage, various people lived in the house. He remembers employees of his father as well as seasonal guests from Ohio and Indiana who came to fish at Ocean springs renting the dwelling.

The Willis sisters, Francis M. Willis (d. 1953) and Martha S. Willis (1873-1968), probably lived at the Arndt Cottage before they bought the Clement Bellande House at 316 Washington Avenue from French immigrant, Jean Basly (b. 1876) in 1937.

In 1941, Christine Gordon lived here when the Heffner's built their courts across the street. The Heffner Courts are now known as the Dale Cottages.

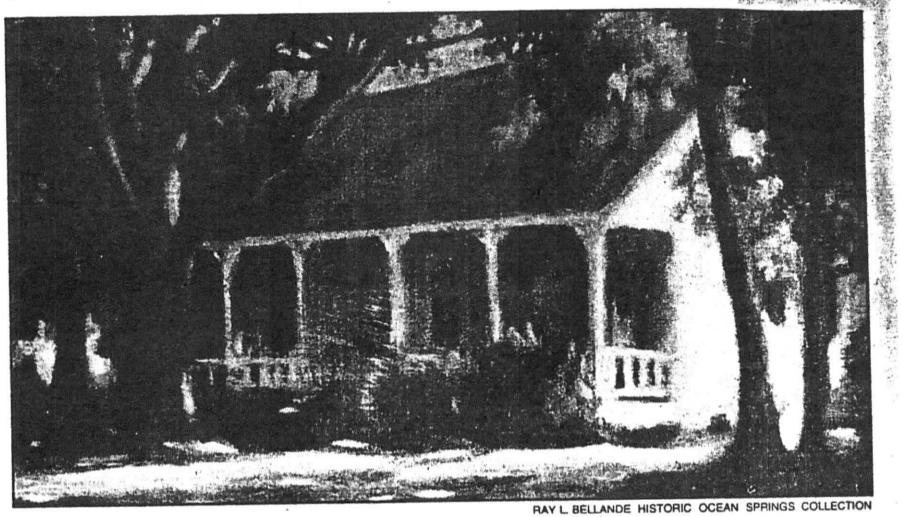
After George E. Arndt and Adele Robarts Arndt both died in 1945, their son George E. Arndt Jr. inherited the old Arndt Cottage on Porter. He conveyed the property to his sister, Marie Arndt Alexander in April 1977.

From 1953 to 1958, the Arndt Cottage was utilized as the office of medical doctor James H. Waddell (b. 1925). Dr. Waddell is a native of Chatom, Ala. He served in the armed forces of the United States during World War II as a B-25 bomber pilot. Dr. Waddell is a graduate of the University of Alabama (1948), and the LSU School of Medicine (1952). He came to Ocean Springs as a general practitioner. In 1953, when Waddell opened his office in the Arndt Cottage the address was No. 17 Porter. During his stay on Porter, Dr. Waddell could recall only one event of note which took place in the house, and that occurred when a black woman from the area near Robinson and the railroad was brought to his office one day bleeding profusely from her abdomen the result of a knife slashing. Waddell sold his practice to a young physician who stayed only a few months and decided to become a pathologist.

In 1958, Dr. Waddell closed his office on Porter and went to Charity Hospital at New Orleans to train as an anesthesiologist. He returned in 1960, to practice at Howard Memorial (Biloxi) and other coast hospitals. Like any modest rental, the Arndt Cottage has had many tenants through the years. It appears that in earlier times, it was a "tourist home." A tourist home was a rental cottage utilized usually by people who came for the season. As Ocean Springs waned as a destination for excursionist, the cottage was rented to locals. Naturally, it is impossible to know everyone who has resided here, but it must number in the hundreds.

It is easy to imagine that Mrs. Alexander tired of tenants and decided to sell the house. In 1989, Jimmy Cox and George Arndt Jr. completely refurbished the 910 square-foot Arndt Cottage. New wiring, central air and heat, a new kitchen and bathroom, and carpet and linoleum were integrated into the old structure. The interior walls and ceilings composed of beaded pine board were painted, but left in original condition. The exterior of the cottage also still in its very primal state was painted.

The present owner, Ray L. Bellande (b. 1943), came to Ocean Springs in May 1990, when he purchased the Arndt Cottage from Marie A. Arndt. He added the picket fence, an outbuilding and had some exterior brick steps and walks constructed. Bellande enjoys the ambience of an older home with some modern conveniences.



RAY L. BELLANDE HISTORIC OCEAN SPRINGS COLLECTION

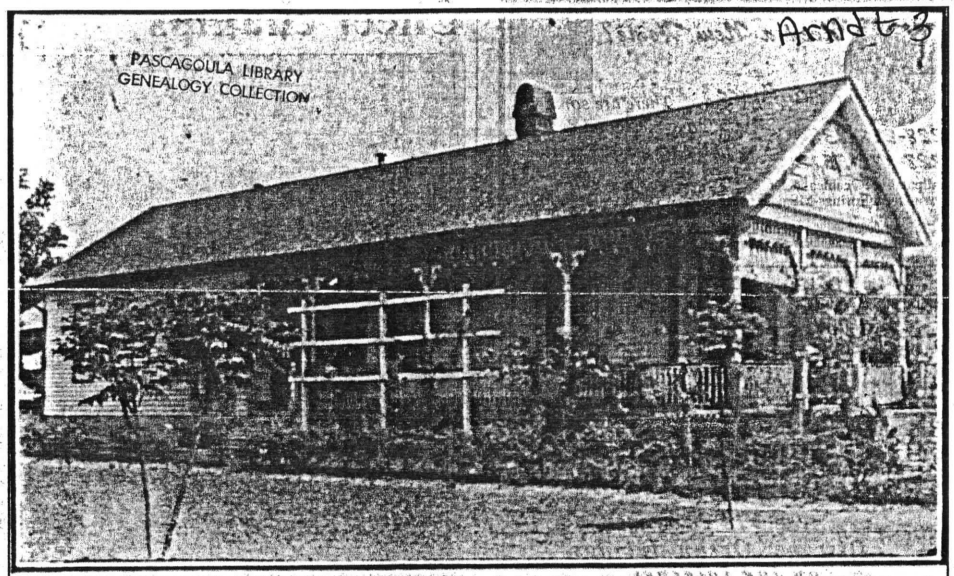
Arndt Cottage

This photograph of an acrylic painting by Vernon Reinike captures the spirit and mystery of the Arndt Cottage at 822 Porter. Reinike should be called "our neighborhood painter." Many of his canvasses reflect the mood and atmosphere of old Ocean Springs. Vernon's latest work, "Near Cleveland Avenue," can be viewed at the 10th Annual Art Wave Juried Exhibit in the George E. Ohr Museum at Biloxi.

Images Under the Oaks

German Families of Ocean Springs, Part II

By Ray L. Bellande



RESIDENCE OF GEO. E. ARNDT.

Ocean Springs Mississippi 1915, p. 45

This vintage 1915 image is labeled "Residence of Geo. E. Arndt." The Arndt House at present day 523 Jackson Avenue bears little or no resemblance to this structure. Did this edifice burn or was it another house in Ocean Springs that was mislabeled as the Arndt residence -- or, perhaps, one extreme renovation.

Arndt Cottage

Prior to erecting his family home at present day 523 Jackson Avenue in 1895, George E. Arndt in October 1894, purchased the property at present day 822 Porter for $600, from the Alfred E. Lewis (1862-1933), the Artesian Prince. The tract was described as:

A portion of Lot 8 in Block 31 beginning at the NW corner of said Lot No. 8 running east along Porter Avenue 81 feet; then south 50 feet; then west 81 feet; then north 50 feet to the place of beginning. Bounded on north by Porter, on west by O'Keefe, on south by Margaret Eylewert, and on east by land of herein grantor. (JXCO, Ms. Land Deed Bk. 16, p. 65)

After Mr. Arndt moved to his new home on Jackson Avenue, the Arndt Cottage on Porter was used exclusively as a rental property. Examples of his early rentals were mentioned briefly in *The Pascagoula Democrat-Star* as follows:

The Arndt Cottage on Porter Avenue is being prepared for Mr. Robert J. McIlrah and Family of Harrisburg, Illinois who are expected here on the 15th. (December 4, 1896, p. 3)

Professor Q.D. Sauls is occupying the Arndt Cottage. (December 3, 1897, p. 3)

From 1953 to 1958, the Arndt Cottage was utilized by Dr. James H. Waddell (b. 1925), as his medical office. Marie Arndt Alexander (1905-1994), a daughter of G.E. Arndt, conveyed this structure and lot to Ray L. Bellande (b. 1943), in May 1990. (JXCO, Ms. Land Deed Bk. 958, p. 744)

Arndt family domicile

In 1895, when bachelor, George E. Arndt decided to Section 13, T7S-R9W from the U.S. Government in 1848. Lot 5 comprises about 140 acres, bounded on the west and south by Bayou Puerto and Old Fort Bayou respectively and situated on the western perimeter of the modern Gulf Hill's development. (*The Pascagoula Democrat-Star, November 1, 1895, p. 3 and December 12, 1895, p. 3* and JXCO, Ms. Land Deed Bk. 11, p. 220)

Antonio Marie had acquired Lot 9-Block 31 for $100 in October 1880, from E.P. and Bridget Bredt who were residents of Galveston, Texas at the time of the sale. Mrs. Marie bought the property in February 1890, from her children, Esperanza Marie LaPorte (1862-1937) and Gertrude Marie Anglada Lauro (1860-1891). (JXCO, Ms. Land Deed Bk. 6, pp. 21-22 and Bk.11, pp. 10-12)

Other real estate

Before the turn of the 20th Century, George E. Arndt had acquired real estate within the town of Ocean Springs and in the countryside to the north and east. Some of these land holdings in T7S-R8W were: Section 8-N/2 of the NE/4; Section 19-House and part of lot south side L&N RR on the Ames Tract; Section 20-Lots 13,14,15,and 16 and 2 1/2 acres.

20th Century rentals

Early in the 20th Century, Mr. Arndt continued to enlarge his rental properties inventory in Ocean Springs. Some of his well-known, extant local homes were as follows:

E.E. Clements-E.S. Jacobs House

In April 1907, G.E. Arndt acquired for $1800, the home of Ernest E. Clement (1861-1922) at present day at 604 Porter Avenue, formerly "The Porter (1863-1913), a retired Union Army officer, passed on. During the Civil War, Clark commanded the 102nd U.S.C.T., the only African-American unit from Michigan. It is assumed the Engbarths moved to the Clark house on Porter. (JXCO, Ms. Chancery Court Will Bk. 2, pp. 253-254)

In February 1922, Joseph R. Webber (1840-1925+), the father of Marshal Arthur D. Webber (1879-1941), acquired the Willie Engbarth home at present day 516 Martin Avenue from George E. Arndt for $700. (JXCO, Ms. Land Deed Bk. 51, pp. 216-217)

Nellie McElroy VanCourt bought this property from her mother in October 1942, after it had been owned by the Edward C. Brou family since October 1925. (JXCO, Ms. Land Deed Bk. 81, pp. 196-197)

1899, p. 8 and The History of JXCO, Ms., 1989, p. 111)

The Lemons were in the pharmacy business at Biloxi. Their drugstore was situated on Lameuse Street and Howard Avenue. In March 1918, druggist J.B. Lemon opened a pharmacy in the south half of the Farmers and Merchants Bank Building on Washington and Robinson where Mr. Arndt's Paragon Saloon had once stood. After Lemon's demise, a New Orleanian, Matt Huber, opened a drugstore in the bank building and remained there until about 1930 when he moved to the southeast corner of Washington and Bowen.

Three children were born to George E. Arndt and Adele Mary Robarts Arndt: Elise Arndt (1901-1903); Marie A. Alexander (1905-1994); and George Edward Arndt Jr. (1909-1994). They were reared on

p. 135)

Insurance

By 1914, George E. Arndt and Benjamin Franklin Parkinson (1859-1930), called Frank, were partnered in the insurance business at Ocean Springs. Their company was called Arndt & Parkinson-Fire and Tornado Insurance. (*The Ocean Springs News, February 7, 1914*)

B.F. Parkinson was the son of Franklin B. Parkinson (1823-1896) and Eugenia Bodley Parkinson (1831-1898) and a native of New Orleans. Parkinson's father was born in Ohio. B.F. Parkinson nor his siblings married. He was also in the insurance business at New Orleans. Mr. Parkinson after many years with the Home Insurance Company founded the Fire Insurance Patrol circa 1920. He was president and sec-

his Bay front estate, now the home of Thomas P. Crozat at 335 Lovers Lane. Parkinson was buried in the family tomb at the Lafayette No. 1 Cemetery on Washington Avenue in New Orleans. (*The Times Picayune, April 25, 1930, p. 2*)

After Parkinson's demise, George E. Arndt continued in the insurance business as:

GEORGE E. ARNDT
INSURANCE AGENCY
Representing The Following Companies
Royal Insurance Co.
Bankers & Shippers
Ins. Co. of North America
Pennsylvania Fire Ins. Co.
Aetna Insurance Co.
Maryland Casualty Co.
FIRE, TORNADO, THEFT, LIABILITY and PROPERTY DAMAGE
Reliable, Dependable, and Prompt Service

4

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Arndt family domicile

In 1895, when bachelor, George E. Arndt, decided to build for himself a cottage in Ocean Springs, there were other homes of note also being erected. Colonel Thomas A.E. Holcomb (1831-1897) of Chicago was constructing "Hollywood", a large residence on the northeast corner of Porter and Rayburn, a site now occupied by the Dale Cottages. Major H.H. Richardson, also of Chicago was building at present day 605 Porter, the familiarly known VanCleave Cottage, now owned by Marvin A. Ornstein. Dr. E.J. Vaughan (1808-1897) was putting up a splendid home at present day 1112 Bowen, the former domicile of Estelle Cook Hire (1915-1998), a schoolteacher, now the residence of the Larry D. Platt family. (*The Pascagoula Democrat-Star, January 31, 1896, p. 3*)

The George E. Arndt (1857-1945) familial home was erected in the fall and winter of 1895 at present day 523 Jackson Avenue. Mr. Arndt acquired the property for his new home, described as Lot 9 of Block 31 of the Culmseig Map of 1854, in November 1890, from Marie-Artemise Rodriguez Marie (1840-1912), the widow of Antonio Marie (1832-1885), a Spanish, émigré mariner and pioneer settler of Bayou Puerto. The consideration for the 100-foot by 200-foot lot was $300. Marie-Artemise Rodriguez was the daughter of Spanish immigrant, Juan Antonio Rodriguez (1812-1867), and Marie-Martha Ryan. Senor Rodriguez had

town of Ocean Springs and in the countryside to the north and east. Some of these land holdings in T7S-R8W were: Section 8-N/2 of the NE/4; Section 19-House and part of lot south side L&N RR on the Ames Tract; Section 20-Lots 13,14,15,and 16 and 2 1/2 acres.

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E.E. Clements-E.S. Jacobs House

In April 1907, G.E. Arndt acquired for $1800, the home of Ernest E. Clement (1861-1922) at present day at 604 Porter Avenue, formerly "The Porter House Restaurant", of E. Stephen Jacobs. It is situated on Lot 6 of the Jerome Ryan Tract. Mr. Clement listed his occupation as a "traveling man" when he registered to vote at Ocean Springs on November 15, 1894. He was born at Michigan in February 1861. His parents were natives of New York. In 1892, shortly before his arrival at Ocean Springs, E.E. Clement married Elizabeth (Betsy) Clement (1876-1900+), also a Michigan native. Their two children, Elizabeth (Lissie) C. Heald (1893-1923+) and Belle C. McPherson (1896-1923+), were born here. Mr. Clement's mother, Melissa L. Clement (1833-1903), resided with the family. Upon departing Ocean Springs, the Clement family relocated to Asheville, North Carolina. (*The Ocean Springs Record*)

W.J. Engbarth-N.M. VanCourt House

The Engbarth-VanCourt House is located at present day 516 Martin Avenue. William J. Engbarth (1882-1957), called Willie, was Mr. Arndt's first cousin. Arndt financed the home, for the Engbarths. (JXCO, Ms. Land Deed Trust Bk. 2, pp. 272-273 and p. 281)

In April 1915, Willie Engbarth was legated the Clark-Reinike House at present day 525 Porter, when Ellen Chambers Clark (1843-1915), the spouse of Newcomb Clark

During the Civil War, Clark commanded the 102nd U.S.C.T., the only African-American unit from Michigan. It is assumed the Engbarths moved to the Clark house on Porter. (JXCO, Ms. Chancery Court Will Bk. 2, pp. 253-254)

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Nellie McElroy VanCourt bought this property from her mother in October 1942, after it had been owned by the Edward C. Brou family since October 1925. (JXCO, Ms. Land Deed Bk. 81, pp. 196-197)

M.W. Austin-Walter H. Winklejohn House

This fine edifice is situated at 418 Martin Avenue and has the distinction of being the last property in Ocean Springs, owned by the family of Dr. William Glover Austin (1814-1894), the founder of the Ocean Springs Hotel in 1853. G.E. Arndt acquired this lot and home from his business partner, B.F. Parkinson (1859-1930), in September 1924, for $1000. In August 1959, he conveyed this property to Walter H. Winklejohn and Marjorie Yerger Winklejohn (1921-2002). (JXCO, Ms. Land Deed Bk. 54, pp. 229-230 and Bk. 190, pp. 568-570).

Family

In November 1899, George E. Arndt married Adele Mary Robarts (1875-1945) of Columbus, Georgia. Their nuptials were held at Columbus. In 1898, Arndt had met Miss Robarts, the sister-in-law of J.B. Lemon (1862-1919), the son of Englishman, Dr. James J. Lemon (1825-1915), of Biloxi. Miss Robarts had come from Georgia for a visit with her sister and Arndt had first seen her at the L&N Depot at Biloxi. It was love at first sight. Correspondence was followed by several visits to Miss Robarts in the Peach State, which led to their engagement and nuptial vows. (*The Biloxi Daily Herald, November 30,*

The Lemons were in the pharmacy business at Biloxi. Their drugstore was situated on Lameuse Street and Howard Avenue. In March 1918, druggist J.B. Lemon opened a pharmacy in the south half of the Farmers and Merchants Bank Building on Washington and Robinson where Mr. Arndt's Paragon Saloon had once stood. After Lemon's demise, a New Orleanian, Matt Huber, opened a drugstore in the bank building and remained there until about 1930 when he moved to the southeast corner of Washington and Bowen.

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Episcopal Church

George E. Arndt was a member of St. John's Episcopal Church where he served as a vestryman. In 1906, Mr. Arndt donated the bell for the Rayburn Avenue sanctuary. Before its new sound pealed into the community, a bolt from the blue issued from a July thunderstorm, striking the church steeple. The resulting force rocked the sanctuary, broke windows, and damaged electrical light fixtures. The church sustained damages amounting to $400. (*The Pascagoula Democrat-Star, July 13, 1906, p. 3*)

Politics

When the town of Ocean Springs commenced incorporation in the early 1890s, George E. Arndt was a player. He was appointed to the town's first election commission and had the local newspaper print 200 ballots for the inaugural elections, which were held December 13, 1893. Mr. Arndt entered the local political scene and was elected Alderman-at-Large in 1895, a position he held continuously for eight years. After a hiatus of twenty-eight years from public service, he was elected Alderman of Ward 4 in 1931. Arndt served but one term and retired from local politics. (Ellison, 1991, p. 6 and Schmidt, 1972, p. 133 and

Insurance

By 1914, George E. Arndt and Benjamin Franklin Parkinson (1859-1930), called Frank, were partnered in the insurance business at Ocean Springs. Their company was called Arndt & Parkinson-Fire and Tornado Insurance. (*The Ocean Springs News, February 7, 1914*)

B.F. Parkinson was the son of Franklin B. Parkinson (1823-1896) and Eugenia Bodley Parkinson (1831-1898) and a native of New Orleans. Parkinson's father was born in Ohio. B.F. Parkinson nor his siblings married. He was also in the insurance business at New Orleans. Mr. Parkinson after many years with the Home Insurance Company founded the Fire Insurance Patrol circa 1920. He was president and secretary of this organization at the time of his demise on April 24, 1930. In New Orleans, Parkinson was once active in the St. John Rowing Club. At Ocean Springs, he raised prize-winning chickens as a hobby on 335 Lovers Lane. Parkinson was buried in the family tomb at the Lafayette No. 1 Cemetery on Washington Avenue in New Orleans. (*The Times Picayune, April 25, 1930, p. 2*)

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FIRE, TORNADO, THEFT, LIABILITY and PROPERTY DAMAGE
Reliable, Dependable, and Prompt Service
Will appreciate local patronage,
George E. Arndt, agent.
(*The Jackson County Times,* July 27, 1935)

(TO BE CONTINUED)